



PRESS RELEASE

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SECOND GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its June 1, 2022 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the November 8, 2022 regular election.

The Commission determined that state representative candidates Kevin Brown (D – 56th District), Jay Case (R – 63rd District), Holly Cheeseman (R – 37th District), Mark DeCaprio (R – 48th District), Kate Farrar (D – 20th District), Craig Fishbein (R – 90th District), Joseph Gresko (D – 121st District), Maria Horn (D – 64th District), Cara Pavalock-D’Amato (R – 77th District), Joseph Polletta (R – 68th District), Pankaj Prakash (R – 29th District), Moira Rader (D – 98th District), David Rutigliano (R – 123rd District), Travis Simms (D – 140th District) and Steve Weir (R – 55th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Saud Anwar (D – 3rd District), Eric Berthel (R – 32nd District), Paul Honig (D – 8th District), Martin Looney (D – 11th District) and Lisa Thomas (D – 35th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. Statewide candidates Dominic Rapini (R – Secretary of the State) and William Tong (D – Attorney General) were also determined to be eligible to receive CEP grants.

The CEP is a voluntary program that allows qualifying candidates for General Assembly and statewide offices to receive full public financing for their campaigns. To qualify for public campaign financing, candidates must demonstrate that they have substantial support from the public. Candidates for state representative accomplish this by raising \$5,800 in contributions from individuals, with at least 150 coming from individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$17,300, with at least 300 coming from individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Candidates for Secretary of the State and Attorney General must raise \$86,600 in small dollar contributions of which \$78,000 must come from in-state contributors. Participating candidates may only accept small dollar contributions from certain individuals—the maximum contribution is \$290—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs. General election grant amounts are up to \$33,175 for state representative candidates and up to \$112,795 for state senate candidates. For statewide candidates (other than Governor), grant amounts are up to \$484,125 for candidates in primaries and up to \$968,250 for candidates in the general election.

The CEP was designed, in part, to reduce the influence of special interests in state politics while encouraging grassroots support of campaigns. In its fourteenth year of providing public funding to General Assembly candidates, and its twelfth for statewide candidates, the CEP continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in Connecticut elections and a critical, ongoing effort to restore the public’s trust in the institutions of democratic governance.